

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Timothy Ray Wirtz,)	C/A No. 8:13-1041-RMG-TER
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	ORDER
)	
The Oconee County Sheriff's Department, <i>in</i>)	
<i>its official capacity</i> ; Sgt. David McMahan, <i>in</i>)	
<i>his individual capacity</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

This is a civil action filed by a local prisoner. Therefore, in the event that a limitations issue arises, Plaintiff shall have the benefit of the holding in *Houston v. Lack*, 487 U.S. 266 (1988) (prisoner's pleading was filed at the moment of delivery to prison authorities for forwarding to District Court). Under Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2) of the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina, pretrial proceedings in this action have been referred to the undersigned United States Magistrate Judge.

PAYMENT OF THE FILING FEE:

By filing this case, Plaintiff has incurred a debt to the United States of America in the amount of \$350. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1914. This debt is not dischargeable in the event Plaintiff seeks relief under the bankruptcy provisions of the United States Code. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(17). A prisoner is permitted to file a civil action without prepayment of fees or security therefor under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Plaintiff has submitted an Application to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees and Affidavit (Form AO 240) to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), which is construed as a Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis*. A review of the Motion reveals that Plaintiff does not have the funds to prepay the filing fee. Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed *in forma pauperis*, **ECF No. 2**, is **granted**.

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNSEL:

Plaintiff requests the appointment of counsel in this case. Motion to Appoint Counsel, ECF No. 3. There is no right to appointed counsel in § 1983 cases. *Cf. Hardwick v. Ault*, 517 F.2d 295 (5th Cir. 1975). The Congress does not appropriate funds to pay attorneys who represent litigants in civil rights cases or in non-capital habeas corpus cases. 53 Comp. Gen. 638 (1974). Although this economic fact is not conclusively determinative of the issue, it is a practical consideration which cannot be ignored. While the Court is granted the power to exercise its discretion to appoint counsel for an indigent in a civil action, 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1); *Smith v. Blackledge*, 451 F.2d 1201 (4th Cir. 1971), such appointment "should be allowed only in exceptional cases." *Cook v. Bounds*, 518 F.2d 779, 780 (4th Cir. 1975). Plaintiff alleges that: this claim will be very difficult to prosecute due to

extensive discovery process; due to his incarceration as a pre-trial detainee it will be difficult if not impossible to meet the demands of deadlines due to the lack of a law library; he has requested a jury trial and an attorney can better litigate difficult subjects. *See* ECF No. 3. However, Plaintiff has not demonstrated that this action is such an exceptional case that it requires appointment of counsel. Plaintiff's assertions are typical of complaints by *pro se* prisoners who seek to pursue § 1983 claims concerning alleged violations of constitutional rights.

After a review of the file, this Court has determined that there are no exceptional or unusual circumstances presented which would justify the appointment of counsel, nor would Plaintiff be denied due process if an attorney were not appointed. *Whisenant v. Yuam*, 739 F.2d 160 (4th Cir. 1984). In most civil rights cases, the issues are not complex, and whenever such a case brought by an uncounseled litigant goes to trial the Court outlines proper procedure so that the uncounseled litigant will not be deprived of a fair opportunity to present his or her case. Accordingly, Plaintiff's request for a discretionary appointment of counsel under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 (e)(1), **ECF No. 3**, is **denied**.

TO THE CLERK OF COURT:

Based on an initial screening conducted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1915 and/or 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, this case is subject to partial summary dismissal as to all of Plaintiff's claims against Defendant The Oconee County Sheriff's Department, in its official capacity. Plaintiff's remaining claims for monetary damages against Defendant Sgt. David McMahan should be stayed until the final termination of Plaintiff's pending state criminal court proceedings.

Therefore, the Clerk of Court shall ***not*** issue the summonses or forward this matter to the United States Marshal for service of process at this time, because the undersigned has recommended the above-noted disposition of Plaintiff's claims against Defendants.

TO PLAINTIFF:

Plaintiff must place the civil action number listed above (C/A No. 8:13-1041-RMG-TER) on any document provided to the Court pursuant to this Order. **Any future filings in this case must be sent to the Clerk of Court, Post Office Box 2317, Florence, South Carolina 29503.** All documents requiring Plaintiff's signature shall be signed with Plaintiff's full legal name written in Plaintiff's own handwriting. *Pro se* litigants shall *not* use the "s/typed name" format used in the Electronic Case Filing System. In all future filings with this Court, Plaintiff is directed to use letter-sized (8½ inches by 11 inches) paper only, to write or type text on one side of a sheet of paper only and not to write or type on both sides of any sheet of paper. Plaintiff is further instructed not to write to the edge of the paper, but to maintain one inch margins on the top, bottom, and sides of each paper submitted.

Plaintiff is a *pro se* litigant. Plaintiff's attention is directed to the following important notice:

You are ordered to always keep the Clerk of Court advised **in writing** (**Post Office Box 2317, Florence, South Carolina 29503**) if your address changes for any reason, so as to assure that orders or other matters that specify deadlines for you to meet will be received by you. If as a result of your failure to comply with this Order, you fail to meet a deadline set by this Court, **your case may be dismissed for violating this Order**. Therefore, if you have a change of address before this case is ended, you must comply with this Order by immediately advising the Clerk of Court in writing of such change of address and providing the Court with the docket number of all pending cases you have filed with this Court. Your failure to do so will not be excused by the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

August 21, 2013
Florence, South Carolina

s/Thomas E. Rogers, III
Thomas E. Rogers, III
United States Magistrate Judge

IMPORTANT INFORMATION . . . PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

WARNING TO PRO SE PARTY OR NONPARTY FILERS

All Documents That You File with the Court Will Be Available to the Public on the Internet Through Pacer (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) and the Court's Electronic Case Filing System. **CERTAIN *PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION* SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN OR SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM ALL DOCUMENTS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THE DOCUMENTS TO THE COURT FOR FILING.**

Rule 5.2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides for privacy protection of electronic or paper filings made with the court. Rule 5.2 applies to **ALL** documents submitted for filing, including pleadings, exhibits to pleadings, discovery responses, and any other document submitted by any party or nonparty for filing. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a party or nonparty filer should not put certain types of an individual's personal identifying information in documents submitted for filing to any United States District Court. If it is necessary to file a document that already contains personal identifying information, the personal identifying information should be "**blacked out**" or **redacted** prior to submitting the document to the Clerk of Court for filing. A person filing any document containing their own personal identifying information **waives** the protection of Rule 5.2(a) by filing the information without redaction and not under seal.

1. Personal information protected by Rule 5.2(a):

(a) Social Security and Taxpayer identification numbers. If an individual's social security number or a taxpayer identification number must be included in a document, the filer may include only the last four digits of that number.

(b) Names of Minor Children. If the involvement of a minor child must be mentioned, the filer may include only the initials of that child.

(c) Dates of Birth. If an individual's date of birth must be included in a document, the filer may include only the year of birth.

(d) Financial Account Numbers. If financial account numbers are relevant, the filer may include only the last four digits of these numbers.

2. Protection of other sensitive personal information – such as driver's license numbers and alien registration numbers – may be sought under Rule 5.2(d)(Filings Made Under Seal) and (e) (Protective Orders).